

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01800 110018Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 OES-07 ACDA-12 EUR-12
/056 W

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O 102348Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5331
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 01800

FOR: PGM/R
CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: NEUTRON BOMB MEDIA REACTION

1. WELLINGTON'S EVENING POST, APRIL 10, UNDER THE
HEADING "WILL SOVIET REACT TO NEUTRON BOMB STAY,"
COMMENTED IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL:
2. "BEHIND THE STERN REALITIES OF THE GREAT POWERS'
ARMAMENT POLITICS ONE CAN DISCERN, IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S
DECISION TO SHELVE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY THE HIGH RADIATION
NEUTRON WARHEAD, A VERY HUMAN REVULSION AT THE THOUGHT OF
WHAT THIS HORRIFYING NEW WEAPON MIGHT MEAN IN TIME OF WAR..
3. "IN PERMITTING WORK TO GO AHEAD WITH DELIVERY
SYSTEMS CAPABLE OF USING SUCH WARHEADS IN THE FUTURE
MR CARTER HAS LEFT AMERICA WITH A VERY POTENT BARGAINING
POINT...
4. "NOW IS THE TIME FOR SOME RESPONSE IF EVER IT IS TO
BE FORTHCOMING. THE NEUTRON BOMB IS NO FIGMENT OF THE
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IMAGINATION. IT NEEDS ONLY A PRESIDENTIAL GO-AHEAD TO
BECOME A HORRIBLE REALITY AND A REALITY THAT, IT COULD
BE ARGUED, WOULD MAKE THE TEMPTATION TO INITIATE THE USE
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FAR STRONGER THAN AT PRESENT. IT HAS
BEEN CONDEMNED AS PLACING THE VALUE OF PROPERTY ABOVE THAT
OF HUMAN LIFE; AS CAUSING LINGERING AND PAINFUL DEATHS FOR
SERVICEMAN AND CIVILIAN ALIKE. FROM WHAT IS CLAIMED FOR IT

AS AN EARLY-USE, TANK-STOPPING WEAPON, SOMEBODY IS GOING TO BE UNABLE TO RESIST THE CHANCE TO TRY IT OUT, IF ONCE GIVEN IT.

5. "IF THE SOVIET UNION CANNOT COME UP WITH SOME TERMS THAT WILL BE CAPABLE OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND IF THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY SOVIET TERMS THAT OFFER REASONABLE GUARANTEES, THE OUTLOOK WILL BE BLEAK...

6. "MOST NUCLEAR-CAPACITY NATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA, AGREED TO ABANDON ATMOSPHERIC TESTING. IT WOULD BE AN EQUALLY TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT IF THEY COULD AGREE TO SHELVE THE NEUTRON BOMB PERMANENTLY, EVEN IF IT DID INVOLVE SOME AGONISING HORSE-TRADING ON THE QUESTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS DEVELOPMENT. WHETHER IT WERE DONE THROUGH THE U.N. OR BY BILATERAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE IMMATERIAL.

7. "ONE THING IS CLEAR: THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THE RUSSIANS." ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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